dispose of these in freehold to industrious tenants, on the improved principle of the building societies, viz., in consideration of payment, with a fair profit, by fourteen annual instalments of 10 per cent. on the value; leaving it to the tenant to protect himself by a life insurance in case of his premature decease in the interval.

He says,—"The question is one of very deep interest, and is intimately connected with the prospects of the fire insurance companies, to whom it is as desirable to reduce the risks of fire as it is to the public: just as an improvement in the ratio of mortality, by justifying a reduction in the amount of annual premiums, has greatly extended the benefits and the uses of life assurance. If the number of conflagrations in London, for example, could be reduced from 900 to 600 per annum, it is evident that a premium of one shilling per cent. would be equally profitable with the present ordinary charge of one shilling and sixpence. A reduction in the enormously disproportionate amount of Government duty might at the same time be legitimately demanded by the companies and the whole body of fire insurers, and the practice of fire insurance would then become almost universal, tending at once to the additional security of the public, and to a large increase of business and profit to the fire companies. It is not pretended that the general adoption of the process will put an end to the ravages of fire, but its use would certainly render fires less frequent and less destructive."

The effect of *time* on timber so prepared has to be considered; and for our own parts we are anything but anxious to see a recurrence to timber houses.

A NOTE FROM SLOUGH.

Under the powers of the Disease Prevention Act, the Sloughites lately appointed, through a meeting of the ratepayers, held at the Slough Mechanics' Institute, a committee to perambulate the town, and make their report to an adjourned meeting. They did so, and at their request the guardians issued notice for the removal of all nuisance, which was instantly obeyed. The adjourned meeting determined upon petitioning the Board of Health, but to delay it till the actual approach of disease rendered it necessary. As the houses, are, in general, scattered, the cost of sewers would be enormous.

The Slough Gas and Coke Company have commenced laying down the gas mains (3-inch bore), and expect to have the first burner fixed by Christmas eve. They have also issued their circular, requesting the inhabitants to inform them of the number of burners they may require; at the same time stating the price of gas would be 10s. per thousand cubic feet, and that a discount would be allowed upon all consumers of 40,000 feet. When the shares were taken, and the Company incorporated, 7s. was stated by the Directors to be their price, and enough too: it is, therefore, looked upon as a breach of faith. The shareholders seem to say they will take none, and the ratepayers are determined to oppose the lighting the parish, unless at an enormous reduction; nay, they even threaten to build another gas work, or have it from Windsor, which they can at 7s. 6d. Gas companies, beware! or the "electric light" may spoil your dividends!!

The new branch line to Windsor from Slough is progressing satisfactorily. The abolition of return tickets by the Great Western Railway Company must or will injure them: more persons travelling now, when possible, by the third class. At the 45 minutes after nine train from Slough to Paddington on Saturday morning last, there were only *one* second-class passenger and *three* first. I have usually seen from 40 to 50, and even more.

Old Upton Church, for which you made an appeal some time ago, continues in the same deplorable state; they have, indeed, mended the roof and coloured the exterior, but the interior is daily becoming worse, and at this time is even in a dangerous condition. Now the ivy is taken away from the tower, it looks like a sheep shorn of its wool.

At the time those galleries in the new abomination were built, provoking so much discussion, and even a leading article in the *Times*, the worthy Bishop of Oxford recommended the old church to be repaired, and rendered fit for Divine service, and the new one left as it was. The advice, however, was not palatable. I really think, Mr. Editor, if you were to open a subscription, sufficient might be collected to preserve so great a national antiquity. The *authorities* would then, for very shame, lend their aid. The Bishop of Oxford would, I have no doubt, head your list.

THE CYCLORAMA AT THE COLOSSEUM.

Under this title Mr. W. Bradwell has just now constructed and fitted up with great elegance, a large building attached to the Colosseum, in Albany-street, which can scarcely fail to attract much attention. It is proposed to answer the double purpose of exhibiting colossal moving pictures and serving as a music-hall,—much needed in that neighbourhood. The idea sought to be carried out in the arrangement of the building is that of the vestibule of a noble mansion fitted up for the performance of a masque or play, such as at one time formed the pastime of our court, and which, by a curious coincidence, her Majesty is at this moment about to revive.

The *salle* in front of the picture is divided into two parts by a deep entablature spanning the whole width. That portion of it nearest the picture, and which forms the proscenium, has on each side of it, at a short distance from the circumscribing walls, a range of six large Roman Ionic columns (3 ft. 9 in. diameter), carrying the entablature,—which, again spans the width of the building at a short distance from the picture. A flight of steps terminates the floor at this end, with four *couchant* lions on pedestals at intervals, over which the audience see the cyclorama. The walls on either side present respectively copies of Raffaelle's "School of Athens," and "Constantine delivering up his authority to the Pope." On the ceiling are figures and groups (Minerva, with Prudence, directing the arts), and the frieze of the entablature shews, in relief, "The Triumph of Alexander," the figures being white, and the background red. In the second division of the building, appropriated to the audience, a tier of boxes, of tasteful design, the front of which forms a waved line, is suspended against the back wall. A bacchanalian procession of figures in relief, in imitation of or-molu (somewhat too large), occupies the face of the boxes, which is, further, formed into panels by figures holding cornucopiæ in very bold relief. The ceiling here has a painting, "Jupiter demanding a Solemn Council of the Gods." We can only further add, that the effect of the whole is admirable, and reflects the highest credit on Mr. Bradwell for inventive and artistic skill.

The subject of the cyclorama is Lisbon and the destruction of the city by earthquake.

BENEVOLENT FUND OF THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

On the 11th inst. a special general meeting of the institute was held, to receive and consider the report of a committee appointed in May last, relative to the establishment of a Benevolent Fund.

The report was read. It urged the propriety of establishing such a fund, to alleviate the wants of our less fortunate brethren, and went on to say,—"That the most convenient mode of distributing the fund, and that most conducive to the object in view, will be by placing it, for that purpose, in the hands of the treasurer of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution, *provided* that it be kept as a separate fund, to be called the Fund of the Institute of British Architects, and that the council of the institute maintain such a control over the distribution as will secure the full benefit of the fund to the members of the architectural profession." A long discussion arose, from the feeling that the entire charge of the fund should be vested in the institute, a feeling in which we fully participate. On a vote being taken, however, an amendment to that effect was defeated. The committee was then re-appointed, to take the necessary steps to establish the fund, and to make arrangements with the managers of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution to take charge of the fund; and so terminated the proceedings.

Why this good work should not be wholly carried out by the institute, we cannot see. A recipient of the fund will now have his case inquired into by the institute, and be referred to the Artists' General Benevolent Institution to receive his claim, so that his distress will be made known to *two institutions* before he *obtains relief*,—a proceeding quite unnecessary, and certainly at variance with that delicacy towards the individual which, in his unfortunate position, should be preserved. Beyond this, moreover, we are satisfied that the fund will not be supported by the profession to the extent it would be if wholly in their own hands.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The old lectern, consisting of a massive brass eagle and stand, as represented in a view nearly a century old of the Interior of Salisbury Cathedral, has been restored to a place in the centre of the main aisle, where it has been mounted on an oak platform with steps. It had been cast aside in St. Martin's Church, to which it had been removed, probably in the time of Wyatt's extensive alterations. The expense has been defrayed by Mr. George Sutton.——The seven district churches now in progress of erection at Plymouth and Devonport, will be completed, it is thought, in less than five years.——The chancel of Banwell Church has undergone considerable repair and renovation, chiefly at the expense of private individuals. An ornamental roof, richly gilded, principally from designs by Mr. Robert Wallace, of Winscombe Court, presented by him, and carried out by an artist of Banwell, Mr. R. H. Trickey, has replaced the old plain one.——During the enlargement and restoration of Costock Church, the remains of a reredos have been discovered while taking plaster from the chancel walls. The principal picture is directly over the centre of the altar. The discovery is said to be an instructive one. A fac-simile is to be retained: and the architect, Mr. George G. Place, states that architects, ecclesiologists, or societies may have copies if they will do something for the building fund.——The committee for building a church in the Pitt Moor District, Sheffield, have selected a design by Messrs. Flockton and Co., of Sheffield, out of several submitted in competition by different architects, and it is to be carried into execution forthwith. The style is Early Decorated, and the building will consist of nave, north and south aisles, transepts, chancel, and western tower, and will contain 840 sittings.——The Stafford new Lunatic Asylum is to be enlarged for four hundred paupers, and another erected on a different site for one hundred other inmates.——A writer in the *Hull Packet* says that the "corporation surveyor seems to have bestowed a great deal of misplaced ingenuity in the construction of the roof of the new corn-market. A cursory glance at it is sufficient to show that he has had a two-fold object: first, to see how much wood he could possibly place in the roof; and, secondly, how much light he could possibly exclude. Unfortunately, it is light and not wood that the farmers and corn-factors chiefly require. They had rather see the difference between wheat and barley, than have to detect it by the sense of touch. They have prayed the Property Committee to give them more light. That the surveyor's son, who, it is said, built the roof, should happen to be a joiner and not a glazier, is simply a curious coincidence."

Partial Opening of Portland Prison.—On 24th ult. sixty-four of the convict-tenants took possession of the building, which now consists of a principal portion, divided into four corridors, with 640 cells in four galleried stories, an infirmary, baths, gas-works, engine-house, bake-house, cells for punishment, &c. &c. Inner and outer walls, 18 feet high, enclose an area of many acres. Next year 1,300 tenants will be accommodated. The surveyor-general of prisons and planner of Pentonville prison, Colonel Jebb, C.B., designed this establishment, and his assistant, Mr. James Ottey, is carrying it into execution. The breakwater, Mr. Rendel, the Government engineer, superintends.

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